

UPDATE SUNDAY MAY 19TH

The Durban exercise on Monday the 13th, came and went off reasonably well. After a delay of about 2 hours, the exercise finally got underway. Unfortunately Derek, ZS5VE, who had been scheduled to participate, took ill earlier the week and could not take up his position. We do, however, believe that Derek is improving and we wish him well.

Keith indicated that many of the communications were done via Telkom lines and via Cellular phones. In real emergencies these means of communication are not always reliable due to overload as witnessed during the New York terror attack on Sept. 11.

A full report will be appreciated in due course from Keith and we thank all those who participated and hope that the experience gained, will be put to good use when called upon in a real situation.

EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

I took a look at the Relief website today for some of the latest information from around the world, as to what is going on regarding emergencies. I was rather shocked to see that there are currently 21 countries suffering major emergencies at present and in almost every country on earth, something is amiss.

What did surprise me was that the name South Africa or Republic of South Africa, did not appear on any of the lists. We should be so lucky.

Here are just a few of the latest, many of which never even make our news bulletins. Paraguay floods - May 2002 Costa Rica floods - May 2002 Kenya floods - May 2002 Madagascar Tropical Cyclone Kesiny - May 2002 (this we briefly saw on one weather bulletin one evening a few days ago) Bangladesh - tropical storms and heat waves of temperatures exceeding 45 degrees, which is a common factor prior to their monsoon rains. Taiwan earthquake on May 15th - a few days ago. Measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale. Afghanistan floods - Apr. 2002 Ethiopia floods - Apr. 2002. One so often regards the horn of Africa as a dry inhospitable place. Floods are very uncommon in that country. Viet Nam forest fires - Apr. 2002and so the list goes on.

DATABASE UPDATE

Just a quick reminder, whenever something in or affecting your station undergoes a change, please let us know so we can keep the Database as accurate as possible. Either fax the information to me at 011 475-5946 or send it via e-mail to francois@overflow.co.za
HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 5 MAY 2002
COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS - ZS6BUU

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY

Simulated Disaster - Durban 13 May 2002 Hamnet Manual Update Hamnet I.D. Card Bulletins around the country Dates to Diarise

DISASTER SIMULATION 13 MAY

On Monday the 13th of May, Hamnet KZN will be involved in a simulated aircraft disaster, which will take place at the Durban International Airport.

From information gathered from Keith Lowes, ZS5WFD, more than 8 Hamnet members will be involved in this exercise and it forms part of a series of exercises which will take place around the country as discussed at the S.A. Search & Rescue meeting held in Pretoria in December 2001.

One such exercise has already taken place in Johannesburg, which was briefly viewed in a national TV news bulletin with a full report as to who participated and what the end result was. This report was done by Mr. Charles Norval, head of Air Traffic & Navigational Systems or AT&NS.

To all other Hamnet divisions around the country, please be aware that a similar type of exercise could well take place in your area soon.

HAMNET MANUAL UPDATE

I made use of the opportunity of Wednesday being a public holiday, to spend some time on the revision of the HAMNET manual. There are some changes that need to be made which will take a bit of time, however, the main change affects the new Hazchem logos or UN Logos that came into effect some months back.

Thanks to Jan Schubart, ZS6ARV, I was able to obtain a copy of the "Orange book of South Africa", also known as the "Dangerous Goods Digest". This digest contains a host of important information, which must be carried in every vehicle, which transports dangerous goods or chemicals, whether flammable or inflammable.

It is going to be impossible to digest all that is contained in this manual, but we scanned the new logos and their meaning, which will be processed into a usable format for inclusion in the Manual at a later date.

In the conversion from Word Perfect to MS Word, some graphics were lost, but these will be obtained from other sources, scanned and re-introduced in the updated version of the Manual.

It is our intention to place this Manual in CD format for easy distribution to the various Provincial Directors around the country, or if space is a problem on the SARL website, I can always make use of my own website where the Manual can be listed for downloading.

The idea is for you as HAMNET member, to have this Manual available on your home PC for easy reference and printout.

HAMNET I.D. CARD

Some requests as to availability of the new HAMNET I.D. card have been received and I wish to report that this item is up for discussion at the Council Meeting, which will take place on Saturday the 25th of May.

Some ideas have been put forward regarding the new format but a final decision as to how the new card will eventually look, hopefully will be taken at the meeting.

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Sunday morning kicks off with Hamnet KZN at 07H15 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Wally ZS5WP.

Followed with the national Bulletin on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Martin ZS6MSG. In Gauteng, 145,700Mhz is also used for a local transmission. The time is 17h00 local.

Next we have Gauteng North. Their bulletin is read on Tuesdays at 20:30 local time to accommodate those who are in church on a Sunday evening. The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band. Please note, in order to do a gradual change, the bulletin is still being read at 6pm on Sunday evening.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Last but not least is Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 3,674MHz relayed by Matt ZS1MJJ in the 80M band and on their local repeaters, 145:625Mhz, 145:700Mhz, 145:750Mhz and various other links.

Whatever you missed please access the S.A.R.L. Website under the heading "Hamnet News - regularly updated", for the latest news or if you are on Packet, it will have been sent to you thanks to Rudie ZS6DX.

HAMNET ACTIVITIES

From information gathered, many HAMNET members were active over the past few days in either promoting our services or being involved in other activities.

HAMNET KZN had an open day yesterday at Hutchinson Park, which also included a flea market.

The Total Rally took place in and around the Pretoria area from the 2nd to the 4th of May and much activity was heard on 7.070 MHz as operators were passing through information.

And, the crown it all, this was the week which saw South Africa's own Mark Shuttleworth on board the International Space Station (ISS) and making contact with no less than 2 HAMNET members namely Dave ZS1DFR and Graham ZS6GPM. Well done chaps and by the time this bulletin is read, Mark will be safely back in Russia after his very eventful flight.

He was issued with an honorary call sign, ZSRSA, just day's prior to his flight. We can all look forward to chatting to Mark in the not too distant future with

his own ZS call sign, as he intends to obtain a full licence in due course.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Apart from listening to the various bulletins, should there be news from your area for the main bulletin, please send your contributions to francois@overflow.co.za.

Contributions are always welcome and it also supplements the Sunday get together on 10,130 and 7,070. It also helps to add some spice to the regular Sunday bulletin.

I would like to suggest that every Provincial Director, consider appointing a person on his or her committee to be responsible for the gathering of items for inclusion in our regular HAMNET news bulletins.

If you are not a member of HAMNET, and would like to join an emergency team in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information. Please also note that the HAMNET questionnaire and/or HAMNET applications form is available on the website of the SARL under the heading "forms".

DATES TO DIARISE

June sees yet another rally, which will take place in the Pretoria area namely the SAM Rally. There is also a motocross event in Pietermaritzburg and the Highveld 4x4 Toyota 1000 Desert race. Much activity and plenty of opportunity to gain communication exercise. Bulletin ends.